

What is claimed is:

1. A printing method for printing by forming dots on a medium using a movable print head, comprising:
  - 5 a step of moving said print head by a first set amount from a reference position used when printing and printing a first reference pattern on said medium;
  - 10 a step of detecting a position of an edge of said medium on the reference position side in the direction of movement of said print head; and
  - 15 a step of moving said print head to a position that is apart by a second set amount from said position of the edge that has been detected and printing a second reference pattern.
- 20 2. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein either one of said first reference pattern or said second reference pattern is printed while suitably changing either one of said first set amount or said second set amount.
- 25 3. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said print head prints target information on the medium by forming dots by ejecting or sublimating ink; and
  - a print start position of said print head is corrected in accordance with a correction amount that is determined according to a relationship between said first reference pattern and said second reference pattern.
- 30 4. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein of said first reference pattern and said second reference pattern, the reference pattern that is printed while suitably

changing either one of said first set amount or said second set amount has a plurality of line segments with different positions on the medium.

5 5. A printing method according to claim 4, wherein  
said print start position is corrected in accordance with  
a set amount of a line segment, among said plurality of line  
segments, that is closest to the other reference pattern.

10 6. A printing method according to claim 4, wherein  
one or more line segments, among the lines configuring said  
plurality of line segments, is printed in a single movement of  
said print head.

15 7. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein:  
an edge of the medium is detected by an optical sensor; and  
said print head prints said second reference line using the  
edge of the medium that has been detected by said optical sensor  
as a reference.

20 8. A computer-readable medium comprising the following codes:  
a code for moving a movable print head by a first set amount  
from a reference position used when printing and printing a first  
reference pattern on the medium;  
25 a code for detecting a position of an edge of the medium  
on said reference position side in the direction of movement of  
said print head; and  
a code for moving said print head to a position that is apart  
by a second set amount from said position of the edge that has  
30 been detected and printing a second reference pattern.

9. A printing apparatus comprising:

a movable print head for performing printing by forming dots on a medium;

5 a sensor for detecting an edge of the medium; and

a controller for controlling operation of said print head and said sensor;

wherein said controller causes:

10 said print head to move by a first set amount from a reference position used when printing and print a first reference pattern on the medium;

said sensor to detect a position of an edge of the medium on said reference position side in the direction of movement of said print head; and

15 said print head to move to a position that is apart by a second set amount from said position of the edge that has been detected and print a second reference pattern.

20 10. A printing system comprising:

a printing apparatus; and

a computer that is capable of communicating with said printing apparatus;

wherein said printing apparatus includes:

25 a movable print head for performing printing by forming dots on a medium;

a sensor for detecting an edge of the medium;

and

a controller for controlling operation of said

30 print head and said sensor; and

wherein said controller causes:

5                   said print head to move by a first set amount from a reference position used when printing and print a first reference pattern on the medium;

10                  said sensor to detect a position of an edge of the medium on said reference position side in the direction of movement of said print head; and

15                  said print head to move to a position that is apart by a second set amount from said position of the edge that has been detected and print a second reference pattern.

11. A pattern for correction, which is used with a printing apparatus for printing by forming dots on a medium using a movable print head and which is for setting a print start position of said print head, comprising:

20                  a first reference pattern that is printed by said print head after said print head has been moved by a first set amount from a reference position used when printing; and

25                  a second reference pattern that is printed by said print head after said print head has been moved to a position that is apart by a second set amount from a position of an edge of the medium on said reference position side in the direction of movement of said print head.

25                  12. A printing apparatus for printing target information on a medium by ejecting or sublimating ink to form dots, comprising:

30                  first reference pattern printing means for printing a first reference pattern at a position on the medium that is apart by a predetermined set amount, in a main scanning direction, from

a reference position used when printing;

detecting means for detecting an edge of said medium on said reference position side;

5 second reference pattern printing means for printing a second reference pattern at a position that is apart by a predetermined set amount using the edge that has been detected by said detecting means as a reference; and

10 print start position correcting means for printing either one of said first or second reference pattern while suitably changing its set amount to correct a print start position in accordance with a correction amount that is determined according to a relationship between said first and second reference patterns.